



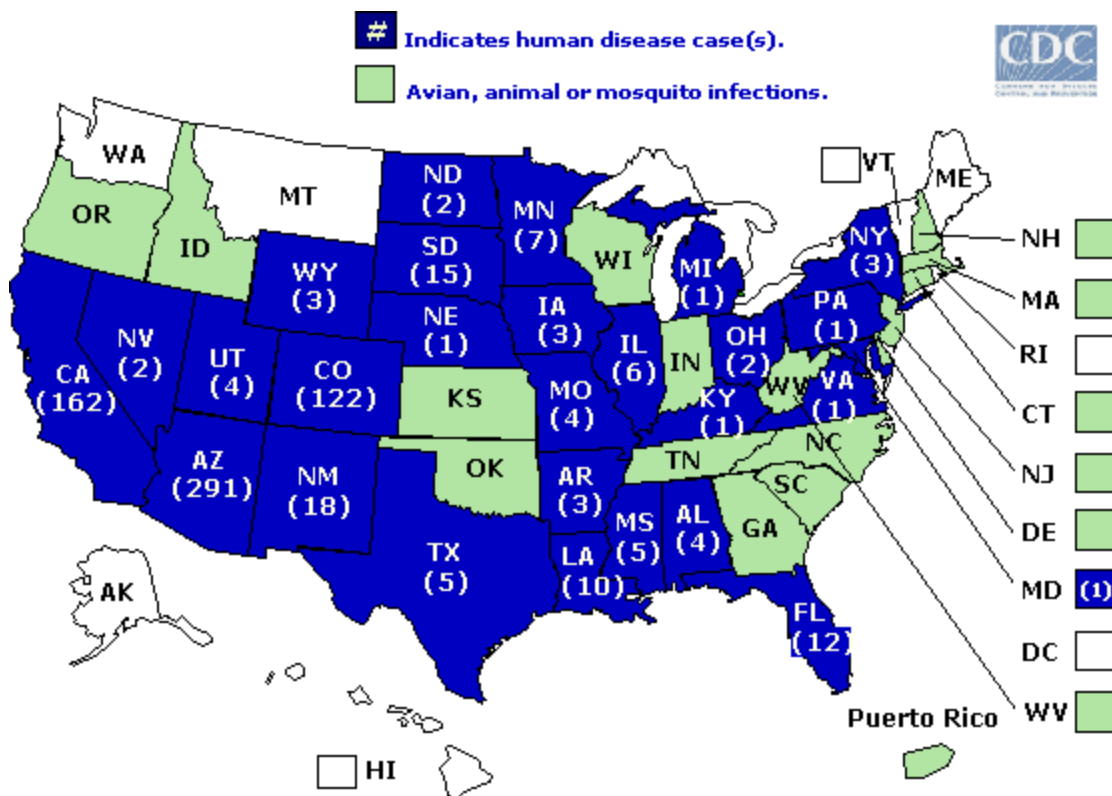
## West Nile Virus Newsletter

For the second year, the Department of Health (DOH) is using this electronic newsletter as a regular communication tool for West Nile virus (WNV). It will be provided routinely throughout the summer to keep our partners informed about WNV in Washington State, as well as information from other areas of the country.

### Surveillance News

*Provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

#### 2004 West Nile Virus Activity in the United States (reported to CDC as of August 17, 2004)



689 cases thus far in 2004, 715 cases the same week of 2003

As of August 17, 2004, 27 states have reported a total of 689 human cases of WNV illness to CDC through ArboNET for 2004. Among 681 WNV cases with clinical and demographic data available, the median age was 50 years (range 1-99 years) and 386 (57 percent) were males. Of these 681 cases, 250 (37 percent) were neuroinvasive. In 2004, there have been a total of 20 published WNV-related fatalities. Of these 20 fatal cases clinical and demographic data were available on 19. The median age of these 19 decedents was 74 years (range 48-91 years).

Additional information about national WNV activity is available from CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>. Maps detailing county-level human, mosquito, veterinary, avian and sentinel data are published each week on the collaborative USGS/CDC West Nile virus website: <http://westnilemaps.usgs.gov>.

## Washington Non-human Surveillance Summary

*Reported to Washington State Department of Health as of August 17, 2004*

County	Horses*		Birds**		Sentinel Flocks		Mosquito Pools***	
	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive
Adams	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Asotin	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Benton	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Chelan	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Clallam	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	1	0	15	0	0	0	0	0
Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ferry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Grays Harbor	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Island	2	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	5	0	0	0	17	0
King	1	0	27	0	0	0	3	0
Kitsap	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	0
Kittitas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Klickitat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mason	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Okanogan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pend Oreille	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierce	0	0	15	0	0	0	146	0
San Juan	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Skagit	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Skamania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Snohomish	0	0	35	0	0	0	3	0
Spokane	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Stevens	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Thurston	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walla Walla	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Whatcom	2	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Whitman	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Yakima	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>0</b>

\*An additional 11 equine tested negative, but were not included in the table because county/state information was not available.

\*\* An additional 13 bird specimens are pending.

A total 217 birds have been submitted for testing, of which 4 were unsuitable and not tested for West Nile virus.

\*\*\* USACHPPM-West Report Dated: August 13, 2004

## WNV Arrives in Oregon

*Supplied by Oregon Department of Human Services*

A dead crow found in Vale has tested positive for West Nile virus, public health officials in Malheur County and the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) confirmed today. The testing was conducted at Oregon State University's Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory.

This is the state's first sign of the virus, which was introduced to the United States in 1999.

"We've been expecting West Nile virus to appear in Oregon at any time, so this is not a surprise," said Mel Kohn, M.D., state epidemiologist in DHS. "This does not necessarily mean that we expect to see human cases any time soon. But it does mean that people need to be sure they are taking precautions against mosquitoes."

The complete news release is available at <http://www.dhs.state.or.us/news/2004news/2004-0813.html>.

## Horses Test Positive for West Nile Virus (WNV)

*Supplied by the Oregon Department of Agriculture*

**August 19, 2004** The Oregon Department of Agriculture announces today that three Eastern Oregon horses have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). Test results are being confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa. Results are pending from three additional cases. Last week, a dead crow found in Vale, Oregon was confirmed to have the disease.

"It is important to note that the virus is passed by mosquitoes, not by horse-to-horse, or horse-to-human contact," says Dr. Don Hansen, state veterinarian.

The complete news release is available at [http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/acd/wnile/040819wnv\\_2.pdf](http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/acd/wnile/040819wnv_2.pdf).

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## Arboviral Diseases Added to Notifiable Conditions

From Washington State Department of Health, Communicable Disease Epidemiology

On August 4, 2004 the Washington State Department of Health enacted an emergency rule that added arboviral diseases, those transmitted by insects, to the list of notifiable conditions. This rule is effective for 120 days, and the State Board of Health will recommend that arboviral diseases be added to the notifiable conditions list permanently. The State Board of Health oversees changes to the list of notifiable conditions in Washington.

The purpose of disease reporting (surveillance) is to track trends and allow the implementation of rapid disease control measures. The Washington Administrative Code requires healthcare providers and others to report more than 50 communicable diseases, called "notifiable conditions" to their local health department, which in turn reports these diseases to the Washington State Department of Health.

WNV, St. Louis encephalitis virus, Eastern and Western equine encephalitis viruses and the California group viruses, which include LaCrosse, Jamestown Canyon, and others, cause the most common arboviral infections in the United States. Other arboviral infections, such as dengue and Japanese encephalitis, can occur in travelers to areas where the infections are common.

Adding arboviral diseases to the list of notifiable conditions puts Washington in line with national standards for reporting of these diseases. Tracking all arboviral diseases will give us a better understanding of the impact of these diseases, especially WNV infection on the people, healthcare and public health systems of Washington, and will allow us to target prevention efforts.

Most healthcare providers and laboratories are already reporting WNV infections to their local health departments. This rule will not substantially change current disease reporting practices, but will standardize them across the state.

You may view the notice of filing on the Department's rules Web site at:  
[http://www.doh.wa.gov/Rules/Adopted\\_Rules.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Rules/Adopted_Rules.htm).

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## Phoenix, Awash with Abandoned Pools, is West Nile Epicenter

*By Beth DeFalco, Associated Press Writer, August 17, 2004*

PHOENIX - With triple-digit heat and nearly nonexistent rainfall, Phoenix seems an unlikely spot for this year's West Nile virus epicenter. Yet, federal health officials say Arizona is the only state where the mosquito-borne virus is an epidemic.

"Minnesota may be the land of a thousand lakes, but we're the land of thousands of abandoned swimming pools," says Will Humble, head of disease control for the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Those swimming pools, plus irrigation canals that slice through parts of the city, patio misters and lush lawns designed to remind transplants of gardens they left behind have inadvertently turned neighborhoods into oases for mosquitoes.

Read the full article at <http://www.azcentral.com/health/news/articles/0817westnilepools-ON.html>.

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## Community Comments

Let us hear your comments on this newsletter, your needs, or things you would like to see, by sending them to Maryanne Guichard, 360.236.3391 or [maryanne.guichard@doh.wa.gov](mailto:maryanne.guichard@doh.wa.gov)

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## WNV Web Resources

Washington State Department of Health [www.doh.wa.gov/wnv](http://www.doh.wa.gov/wnv)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>

Washington State University Cooperative Extension <http://wnv.wsu.edu/>

Cornell University, Center for Environment <http://www.cfe.cornell.edu/erap/WNV>

Washington State Department of Agriculture

<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/WestNileVirus/default.htm>

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## Article Submission

We are interested in receiving articles for future publications of the WNV newsletter. Please submit articles to Tom Gibbs, [tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov](mailto:tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov).

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## DOH Contact List for West Nile Virus

### **General Public Toll-Free Hotline 1.866.78VIRUS**

#### **Publications: Brochures/Response Plan/Fact Sheets**

Laura Harper, 360.236.3380, or [laura.harper@doh.wa.gov](mailto:laura.harper@doh.wa.gov).

#### **Surveillance: Mosquito**

Jo Marie Brauner, 360.236.3064, or [jomarie.brauner@doh.wa.gov](mailto:jomarie.brauner@doh.wa.gov).

#### **Surveillance: Dead bird surveillance, horses, case reporting, laboratory assistance, and general WNV response**

Tom Gibbs, 360.236.3060, or [tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov](mailto:tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov).

#### **NPDES: Training, technical assistance**

Ben Hamilton, 360.236.3364, or [benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov](mailto:benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov).

#### **WNV in Humans: Clinical information, case reporting, and laboratory testing**

Call your local health jurisdiction or DOH Communicable Disease Epidemiology, 206.361.2914 or 877.539.4344.

#### **Assistance with news releases and media response**

Donn Moyer, 360.236.4076, or [donn.moyer@doh.wa.gov](mailto:donn.moyer@doh.wa.gov).

Tim Church, 360.236.4077, or [tim.church@doh.wa.gov](mailto:tim.church@doh.wa.gov).

#### **WNV Program Management**

Maryanne Guichard, 360.236.3391, or [maryanne.guichard@doh.wa.gov](mailto:maryanne.guichard@doh.wa.gov).

#### **WNV Coordinator**

Tom Gibbs, 360.236.3060, or [tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov](mailto:tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov).

#### **To subscribe to this newsletter**

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